

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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TO: DRUG COURT EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUBJECT: DRUG COURT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) is pleased to release the Drug Court Partnership (DCP) Evaluation Report pursuant to the DCP Act of 1998 (Chapter 1007, Statutes of 1998). The Act states:

"...the DCP shall be administered by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs for the purpose of demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of drug courts operating pursuant to Sections 1000 to 1000.4, inclusive, of the Penal Code, and for any defendant who has entered a plea of guilty and is on active probation. The department shall design and implement the program with the concurrence of the Judicial Council.... The Department, in collaboration with the Judicial Council, shall create an evaluation design for the DCP that will assess the effectiveness of the program...."

ADP conducted this evaluation in collaboration with Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), and with the assistance of Joseph Guydish, Ph.D., and Barbara Tajima, Department of Medicine, Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California San Francisco. The evaluation could not be completed without the tremendous efforts of the participating counties in the data collection process and their willingness to help ADP and AOC demonstrate the effectiveness of drug courts in California.

This report meets the Act's requirements to address the cost-effectiveness of the drug courts funded by the program. Findings of the report are positive and include:

- Participant characteristics at the time of admission;
- Participant arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates upon admission;
- Participant arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates upon completion;
- Participant achievements; and
- Improvement in participants' quality of life.

The Department looks forward to future opportunities to provide additional drug court related data and findings to the growing literature regarding drug court programs.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN P. JETT
Director

